

THE HENRY LONG COLLECTION

Part 5 – 1951/'52 Season

In the domestic off-season a team of seven riders departed from South Africa for a tour that would encompass a series of Test matches with European countries besides meetings against club and composite sides. With Henry Long and Bob Serrurier unavailable due to UK racing commitments and Fred Wills and Doug Serrurier having business interests in the Union, it only left Buddy Fuller of the touring party with any extensive overseas riding experience. The remainder of the team, however, all rose to the occasion at various times none more so than Bob Raw who proved the star of the tour.

Victories were achieved in the majority of matches ridden and only at the end of the tour when men and machines began to feel the strain of an exhausting schedule did results begin to turn against the Springboks. Two of the scheduled internationals were cancelled – the second Test against Denmark was rained-off whilst that with Sweden was re-arranged as an individual meeting due to Joe Blankfield being sidelined with a broken wrist and Buddy Fuller only having recently returned from injury. It was a missed opportunity for the South Africans as they filled 6 of the 8 top positions in the meeting and would have won the Test if it had gone ahead as scheduled.

At home the 1951/52 season was one of expansion both in terms of venues and new competitions. A very strong Overseas team completed a resounding 3½ - 1½ series win over the Springboks but the outstanding individual performer of the series and the season was Henry Long. He stood astride the South African speedway scene like a colossus and dominated it to such an extent that only his return to Belle Vue prevented him from potentially claiming a clean sweep of all trophies. Besides his National Championship victories, he ended the season as the holder of the Wembley Match Race Golden Helmet and the East Rand Match Race Silver Helmet whilst also capturing the Transvaal Championship. Long scored 80 points out of a possible 90 in the Tests, achieved over a century of points in the Transvaal League for an average of 11.44 and picked up the Valvoline Trophy, Wembley Handicap Championship and a share of the International Best Pairs Championship along the way. To cap these outstanding achievements, he held the Wembley 4-lap, Boksburg 3-lap and Durban 3 and 4-lap track records at season's end.

With the success of SA.SRA's Vlakplaats training track in encouraging youngsters to take up the sport, an inaugural National Junior Championship was held at Wembley. The key clash was in heat 18 when Roy Bester and Frans Scholtz met after having scored the maximum 12 points each. Bester emerged triumphant when Scholtz fell.

The Transvaal League produced an unexpected winner in the Boksburg Bees as it was anticipated that either the Wembley Lions or the Henry Long led Pretoria Tigers would triumph. The Tigers won five of their first six matches and then won only one of their next eight whilst Wembley lost three of their last five, including the decider 41-37 against the Bees on their own home track.

Long in the planning, the sport was introduced to Hoy Park in Durban at the end of 1951. From the outset it was a sensation as crowds flocked to the stadium on a Saturday night and ultimately the establishment of speedway in Natal paved the way for the SA National League the following season. With 1952 being South Africa's tercentenary, a stadium was built on the foreshore at Cape Town to accommodate the many events celebrating Jan van Riebeeck's arrival at the Cape in 1652. Speedway was one of those events and the meetings there in March and April attracted four and five figure attendances. However, the Van Riebeeck stadium was only temporary and speedway was unable to establish a permanent presence at the Cape. The re-appearance of speedway at the annual Springs Show was again a success and highlighted the potential for the sport in the far East Rand whilst various parties were looking to re-introduce speedway to Port Elizabeth after an absence of 20 years.

Season 1951/'52 .. cont'd.

Season 1951/'52 Roll of Honour.

Test Series in Europe: - Denmark 0, S.Africa 1; *Norway 1, S.Africa 0; Holland 3, S.Africa 1.

Test Series in S.Africa: - S Africa 1½ Overseas 3½

*Norway was represented by club side Oslo Phantoms although the match is recognised as an international by S Africa.

SA National Championship:

- Henry Long @ Wembley

SA National Handicap Chmpshp (Yanx Trophy)

- Henry Long @ Boksburg

SA National Junior Championship:

- Roy Bester @ Wembley

Transvaal Championship:

- Henry Long @ Boksburg

Natal Championship:

- Fred Wills @ Hoy Park, Durban

Wembley Open Championship:

- Henry Long

Wembley Match Race Chmpshp, End-of-Season Holder:

- Henry Long

East Rand (Boksburg) Match Race Chmpshp, E-o-S Holder: - Henry Long

Durban Match Race Chmpshp, End-of-Season Holder:

- Fred Wills

Transvaal League Champions:

- Boksburg Bees

Joe Blankfield
Breaks Wrist,
But S.A. Win
From Our Special
Representative
COPENHAGEN, Friday. —
The South African speedway
touring team won the sixth
consecutive match last night,
beating Denmark 37-35. The
Springboks are still unbeaten
after a month in Europe, and
every promoter wants to book
the team.
But last night's match
brought more bad luck in
the form of a serious injury.
Little Joe Blankfield fractured
a wrist. He missed early
matches through a broken
finger. He scored eight points
in his first outing when he
returned to the team at
Odense last Sunday.
In the absence of Buddy
Fuller, who is making a slow
recovery from his bad
bruising, Bob Raw and Harry
du Toit continue to be the
star performers of the team.
Leading scorers in last night's
narrow win were: Raw 10,
Du Toit 9, Boshoff 8.

S. African speedway riders
beat Holland
Friday
Aug. 17 1951. From Our Correspondent
Amsterdam, Friday.
THE South African speedway team easily won the first
test against Holland at Amsterdam last night by 44
points against 28.
The Dutch resistance was, as
Buddy Fuller said to me after-
wards, weaker than expected and
especially Hartman, who was not
in his usual form.
Bobby Raw got maximum
points, winning all his four heats.
Fuller scored three firsts and one
second place, Harry du Toit one
first, two seconds and one third.
Fenton one second and three
thirds, Boshoff one second and
three thirds, Joe Blankfield two
thirds and Alec Blankfield one
third place.
The best Dutchman, Henk
Steman, had two firsts and one
second place. He also had the
fastest time of the night in the
final stars race in which Raw's
machine, after he had gone half
a lap in a leading position, broke
down. Captain Co Boef and
Timus Metzelaar both won one
race.



The SA team that toured Europe in 1951: Toby Boshoff, Alec Blankfield, Buddy Fuller,
Harry du Toit, Bob Raw; knlg: Maurice Fenton, Joe Blankfield.

BUDDY FULLER AGAIN WEMBLEY MATCH RACE CHAMPION

Saturday Dec. 6 1951
BUDDY FULLER'S victory over Fred Wills when he regained the Golden Helmet which goes with the Wembley match-race speedway title on the Wembley circuit last night, was a triumph for fast "gating." Fuller regained the title he lost to Wills in April, 1950, writes Eric Litchfield.

Since then Wills successfully defended his crown seven times—and he did it by coming first out of the first bend. Last night it was a different story. The 34-year-old Fuller was out of the gate first in both heats, and he never headed, winning the first heat in 59.4 seconds and the second run in 60.7 seconds.

There was no doubt about the first heat. Fuller who is noted for his "middle-of-the-track" riding with a tendency to ride wide on the bends, adopted new tactics. He got ahead, and then held the white line, winding by six lengths.

The new champion started from the outside in heat two, and he got a real "flyer" from the gate. Wills' chances of catching his brother-in-law were reduced when he got into a bad slide on the second bend. But he "rode like a bomb," and there was no more than half a wheel difference at the finish, which had a 6,000-crowd on its feet.

There have been only two holders—Fuller and Wills—of the Wembley match-race title since the event was started 17 months ago. It is completed for during each month of the speedway season.

Du Toit's Maximum

Harry du Toit, a successful rider with the touring team in Europe, rode brilliantly throughout the Transvaal League match to score maximum points from four rides. But he could not gain a league victory for Wembley Lions. They were beaten 44-40 by Pretoria Tigers.

Du Toit was unlucky enough to be involved in a pile-up during the second half of the meeting, and he was taken to hospital for observation.

Together with Fuller (11), Du Toit scored more than half his team's points. The failure of his colleagues was the Lions' weakness. Bob Raw, the acting captain of Tigers, looked set for maximum until he met Du Toit in his last

heat. This is where he dropped his only point of the night. Alec Blankfield, showing the form which made him Transvaal champion, got nine points, but was fortunate to be well in the lead in his fourth heat when his engine seized on the line.

One of the most encouraging rides came from 19-year-old Fred Lang. He got a lead in the 14th heat and held on while more experienced riders—Syd van der Vyver, Vern MacWilliams and Harry Serrurier—fought out a tough fight behind. Lang won in 84.4 secs.

Heat winners: Raw (T) 81.5, Du Toit (L) 81.6, H. Serrurier (T) 83.2, Raw (T) 84.3, Fuller (L) 83.7, Du Toit (L) 83.4, Raw (T) 82, Du Toit (L) 84.5, Fuller (L) 83.9, Du Toit (L) 82.7, A. Blankfield (T) 85.9, Fuller (L) 85.3, Hollenbach (T) 87.1, Lang (L) 84.4.

Points scorers: Wembley Lions: Du Toit 12, Fuller 11, Van der Vyver 6, Matthews 4, Lang 4, Scholtz 2, Nelson 1. Total 40. Pretoria Tigers: Raw 11, A. Blankfield 9, MacWilliams 6, Hollenbach 8, H. Serrurier 6, Gould 4, Rees 2. Total 44.

Another match race meeting for Fuller

Sat. Nov. 1951
HAVING retained his Wembley speedway match race title last night Buddy Fuller will try to make it a "double" by taking the Boksburg championship from Doug Serrurier on the East Rand track to-night.

This may be the last match between South African riders on this track for some time as the challenge from the overseas men will have to be met on more than one occasion.

The unbeaten Pretoria Tigers team meet Germiston Stars in a league match and it is unlikely that they will lose their record with their captain Bob Raw and little Alec Blankfield riding in such good form.

Van Zyl Stars, but S.A. Lose Speedway

Saturday Dec. 8 1951
OVERSEAS 59, SOUTH AFRICA 49
KEN MIDDLEDITCH'S overseas men gave the most brilliant display of team riding and individual performances ever seen on a South African track when they won the first speedway international before an all-time record crowd of 11,000 at Wembley last night (writes Eric Litchfield).

Middleditch starred with 17 points, losing only to the 31-year-old Fred van Zyl, riding in his first full international for the Springboks.

South Africa started badly. And, considering a considerable amount of bad luck, Fuller's men did remarkably well to keep within 10 points of the star-studded tourists.

The "And" was Fred van Zyl, the motor mechanic from Boksburg North. He rode exceptionally fast in scoring top points (14) for the Springboks and he beat Middleditch, Mardon and Redmond.

Henry Long had more bad luck than in all his previous internationals put together. He got a bad "gate" in his first heat and failed to score. Then he had plug trouble in all his other races, but managed to total 12 points.

Wembley's previous track record (78.3 by Henry Long) was bent in all directions. Redmond (77.8), Van Zyl (77.0) and finally Geoff Mardon flashed home in 76.6 secs. to set the new record.

Fuller And Wills Are Star Riders At Thrilling Opening Speedway Meeting

Sunday Dec. 9 1951
BUDDY Fuller (Wembley Lions) and Fred Wills (Boksburg Bees) were the stars of last night's opening speedway meeting at the new Hoy Park speedway.

Close on 5,000 excited fans saw Fuller secure the inside berth and beat Wills by about three lengths in the first Durban three laps match race championship. It was revenge for Fuller who had twice previously gone down to Wills.

It was a night of thrills from the time Wills won the opening four-lap heat for Boksburg Bees until he won the final of the Natal four-lap scratch race. In his heat Wills set the track record of 39.6 sec.

Wembley Lions beat Boksburg Bees 35-34 in the exciting 12 event league match, mainly due to Wills who was the night's top scorer with 11 points, with Syd van der Vyver next best with nine.

As the riders got used to the track—most of them were seeing it

for the first time, they gave the excited crowd plenty of value for their money. There were several spills, but no injuries of any consequence.

The meeting was splendidly organised.

Results were: Heat 1: F. Wills (B), 1; B. Fuller (W), 2; time, 61.3sec. Heat 2: S. van der Vyver (W), 1; A. Blankfield (B), 2; time, 62.3sec. Heat 3: T. Boshoff (W), 1; R. Bester (W), 2; time, 61.3sec. Heat 4: B. Fuller (W), 1; A. Blankfield (B), 2; time, 62.7sec. Heat 5: J. Blankfield (W), 1; S. van der Vyver (W), 2; time, 61.3sec. Heat 6: V. MacWilliams (B), 1; F. Wills (B), 2; time, 61.3sec. Heat 7: F. Lang (W), 1; F. van Zyl (B), 2; time, 62.3sec. Heat 8: F. Wills (B), 1; S. van der Vyver (W), 2; time, 60.8sec. Heat 9: R. Bester (W), 1; A. Gould (B), 2; time, 63.1sec. Heat 10: F. van Zyl (B), 1; S. van der Vyver (W), 2; time, 62sec. Heat 11: V. MacWilliams (B), 1; J. Serrurier (B), 2; time, 62.3sec. Heat 12: F. Wills (B), 1; B. Fuller (W), 2; time, 62.3sec.

Points scorers were: Wembley Lions: S. van der Vyver (9), B. Fuller (7), R. Bester (7), J. Blankfield (5), F. Lang (4), T. Boshoff (3). Boksburg Bees: F. Wills (11), V.

MacWilliams (7), F. van Zyl (5), A. Blankfield (4), J. Serrurier (4), A. Gould (3).

Novice race: O. Fisher 1; C. Young 2; R. Scott 3; time, 68sec.

Durban Match Race Championship (3 laps): 1. B. Fuller; 2. F. Wills. Time: 47.3sec.

Natal Scratch Race (4 laps): Heat 1: T. Boshoff; 2. J. Serrurier. Time: 69.4sec. Heat 2: 1. A. Blankfield; 2. A. Gould. Time: 62.3sec. Heat 3: 1. F. Wills; 2. S. van der Vyver. Time: 59.6. Fastest second: S. van der Vyver. Final: 1. F. Wills; 2. S. van der Vyver. Time: 60.2sec.



THE Wembley Lions Speedway team, led by Buddy Fuller (extreme right), which helped to thrill the large crowd at the opening of the Hoy Park Speedway in Durban last night. (Results, Page 19.)

Fuller Loses Match-Race Title to Middleditch

Saturday Dec. 15 1951
GERMISTON 45, PRETORIA 39

KEN MIDDLEDITCH, the 24-year-old Poole (English Third Division) speedway captain, is the first overseas rider to wear the Wembley match-race championship golden helmet. He took the title of Buddy Fuller, winning 2-1 at Wembley Stadium last night (writes Eric Litchfield).

Fuller won the first heat in 60 secs. But Middleditch, gating very fast from the outside berth, took second and third heats in 61.6 sec. and 60 secs.

Fuller made a brave fight in the deciding heat. He made two challenges in the last lap, but at the flag he was still two lengths behind.

Germiston stars, brilliantly led by skipper Doug Serrurier (maximum 12 points), caused the surprise of the season by defeating Henry Long's league leaders, Pretoria Tigers. Reg Duval and Trevor Redmond were strong heat leaders for Stars.

Henry Long had machine trouble in his first outing, but showed a his top form in taking maximum points from the next three rides. Bob Raw came back to his best form scoring 10 points.

Heat winners: D. Serrurier (G.) 79.3; Duval (G.), 80.6; Redmond (G.) 80.4; D. Serrurier (G.), 81.4; Long (P.), 79.1; Redmond (G.), 82.4; I. Serrurier (G.), 80.2; Duval (G.), 81.7; Long (P.), 78.2; D. Serrurier (G.), 81.1; Raw (P.), 80.8; Long (P.), 78.1; Raw (P.), 81.6; Carlsson (P.), 81.7.

Points scorers: Germiston: I. Serrurier 12, Duval 10, Redmond 10, J. Blankfield 5, Boshoff 3, J. Serrurier 2, McKenzie 2, D. Lang 1. Total, 45. Pretoria: Raw 10, Long 9, A. Blankfield 6, Carlsson 6, MacWilliams 2, Gould 2, H. Serrurier 1, Roodt 1. Total, 39.

Overseas team for second Wednesday Jan 2 1952 speedway test

KEN MIDDLEDITCH, the captain, and Tony Lewis will be the top pair in the overseas speedway team to meet South Africa in the second "test" at Wembley Stadium on Friday.

The English pair are followed by a New Zealand couple, Geoff Mardon and Trevor Redmond. Sweden and Norway are represented in the third pair by Sune Carlsson and Henry Andersen. The two reserves are Jock Grierson and Reg Duval.

Redmond won the Overseas Trophy event at Wembley yesterday, beating Mardon in the final in 78.5sec. Grierson was third and Middleditch fourth. Both Redmond and Mardon won their preliminary heats and the semi-finals. The best time was Redmond's 77.2sec. in his semi-final.

JUNIOR CHAMPION

Roy Bester became the new South African junior champion when he scored a maximum of 15 points for his five heats, Franz "Eddie" Scholtz won his first four heats, but when he met Bester in the 18th, heat he was cut out entering the first bend and fell through over-eagerness to challenge Bester. He finished second in the final aggregate with Vern McWilliam third.

Bester returned the best time — 81.8sec. — and was consistent throughout the meeting. Scholtz and Fred Lang also returned times which compared favourably with league match times of last season.

POINT SCORING

The points scoring was: R. Bester 15, F. Scholtz 12, V. McWilliam 11, H. Adendorff 8, F. Lang 8, F. Goodrum 7, P. McKenzie 7, R. Roodi 6, B. Messer 6, D. Collins 6, H. Norton 5, D. Lang 5, B. Naude 5, B. Milan 4, P. MacDouglas 2, Klopfer 2, S. Nelson 1, A. Jonsson 1.

Long wins speedway title in record-breaking rides

HENRY LONG made no mistakes in his speedway challenge match against Ken Middleditch at Wembley Stadium. He not only won the "Golden Helmet" in two rides, but he beat the three lap record twice.

Breaking from the gate in the first race he stuck to the line like a limpet to a rock and Middleditch had no chance of getting past.

Long changed his tactics in the second race and forced Middleditch to take a wider line. In this race Long clocked 57.6sec., which was 1.6sec. inside the record he held jointly with Buddy Fuller.

REDMOND'S MAXIMUM

Long did not have things all his own way in the Transvaal league match. Trevor Redmond beat him out of the gate in the fifth heat, and leading all the way, deprived Long of a maximum. Redmond scored a maximum himself and helped Germiston Stars to beat Pretoria Tigers 48-37.

The Germiston team was much steadier and showed better form than in any previous match this season. Doug Serrurier had scored eight points in three rides when his machine gave him trouble in the fourth, and Joe Blankfield, after a disqualification for riding the line in the first heat, rode well.

In winning the test trial, Toby Boshoff displaced Bob Raw in the South African team to meet the overseas team in the third test at Wembley next week.

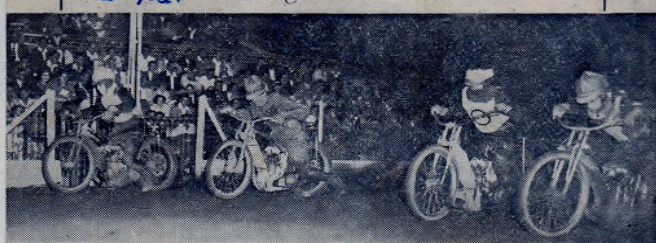
RESULTS
Heat winners in the league match were: H. Long (P.), 78.1sec.; T. Redmond (G.), 78.5sec.; R. Duval (G.), 77.2sec.; D. Serrurier (G.), 78.5sec.; T. Redmond (G.), 78.5sec.; A. Redmond (G.), 78.5sec.; S. Carlsson (P.), 78.4sec.; D. Serrurier (G.), 78.5sec.; T. Redmond (G.), 77.4sec.; H. Long (P.), 78.2sec.; B. Raw (P.), 79.3sec.; T. Redmond (G.), 79.3sec.; H. Long (P.), 78.5sec.; A. Blankfield (P.), 80.2sec.; J. Blankfield (G.), 81.3sec.
Individual point scorers were: Germiston Stars: T. Redmond 12, R. Duval 9, D. Serrurier 8, Blankfield 6, T. Boshoff 5, A. Lindquist 3, J. Serrurier 3, Total, 46.
Pretoria Tigers: H. Long 11, B. Raw 6, Carlsson 5, A. Blankfield 5, V. McWilliam 4, A. Gould 2, H. Serrurier 2, R. Bester 2, Total, 37.

Two changes in S. African team

The South African team to meet the overseas riders in the third test at Wembley Stadium on Friday is: Fred Wills (captain), Henry Long, Buddy Fuller, Fred van Zyl, Doug Serrurier and Toby Boshoff. The reserves are George Matthews and Bob Raw, with Joe Blankfield named as ninth man.

The team shows two changes from that which rode in the second test. Fuller and Boshoff come in for Alec Blankfield and Raw, and Matthews comes into the eighth for the first time.

Saturday Jan 12 1952. Riding for a Fall



Only two of the riders who started in the 10th heat in the speedway international match at Wembley last night finished the course. Henry Long (right), the South African captain, won with Ken Middleditch (left), the visiting captain, second. Reg Duval, second from right, fell and Doug Serrurier (second from left) rode over the fallen machine and took no further part in the match.

LONG AND WILLS LACKED SUPPORT IN SPEEDWAY DEFEAT OF S. AFRICA

IF South African speedway followers were in singing mood after watching their team go down to a 45-62 defeat by the overseas touring team at Wembley Stadium last night their theme song must have been "Oh, what a surprise."

First and foremost in the evening of shocks was the outstanding success of the two Scandinavians, Henry Andersen and Sune Carlsson. They scored 23 points out of the overseas total in spite of two engine failures. They were lucky to beat Fred Wills in their first ride but after that they could beat everybody but Henry Long.

Long, in his first international as captain, was miles ahead of any other rider. He broke the track record in his first heat and carried on to score a maximum. Fred Wills caused a minor surprise by a return to his very best form but the unaccountable failure of Fred van Zyl was dumbfounding to those who saw him in his first international.

Apart from Long and Wills the South African team appeared to be lifeless and lacked that "punch" which had characterised their riding in recent meetings.

They had had breaks, and the fact that the New Zealand pair, Trevor Redmond and Geoff Mardon, could win only one heat showed that even the best in the visiting team are not too big a hurdle to overcome.

Heat winners

The heat winners were: H. Long (S.A.), 78.4; Carlsson (G.) 77.4; H. Andersen (G.) 78.7; K. Middleditch (P.) 77.7; H. Andersen (G.) 77.9; H. Long (S.A.) 78.2; Grierson (G.) 80.2; H. Long (S.A.) 78.3; H. Andersen (G.) 77.9; Blankfield (S.A.) 80.2; Wills (S.A.) 78.8; S. Carlsson (G.) 78.4; H. Long (S.A.) 78.5; H. Lewis (G.) 82.6; H. Long (S.A.) 77.3; F. Wills (S.A.) 78.9.

Points Scorers

Overseas: H. Andersen, 14; R. Middleditch, 13; S. Carlsson, 12; R. Redmond, 9; G. Mardon, 9; T. Lewis, 5; J. Grierson, 1; South Africa: H. Long, 15; F. Wills, 12; A. Blankfield, 6; B. Raw, 4; T. Boshoff, 3; D. Serrurier, 1; F. van Zyl, 1; J. Blankfield, 1.

SOUTH AFRICA OUTRIDE OVERSEAS IN THIRD SPEEDWAY "TEST"

THERE was no doubt about South Africa's superiority in the third speedway "Test" against Overseas at Wembley Stadium last night. The 8,000 crowd saw the Springboks pull up to 2-1 in the series, and they only have to repeat this form in the next two "Tests" to have a chance of winning the "rubber."

The Overseas riders were beaten right from the gate. They could not match the snappy starting of Henry Long (maximum 18 points), Fred Wills (14 pts.) and Buddy Fuller (11 pts.).

South Africa started by winning the first eight heats, including three 1-1 wins, and the off-form Overseas men never had a chance to fight back. But for the Scandinavian stars, Henry Andersen and Ake Lindquist, as well as New Zealand's Trevor Redmond, who totalled 34 points between them, it would have been a rout.

LONG RETAINS THE "HELMET"

HENRY LONG, favoured by the speedway crowds, retained the "Golden Helmet" when he beat Trevor Redmond in two straight three-lap races last night at Wembley Stadium, Johannesburg. For two laps in the first race, Redmond challenged Long wheel to wheel, before Long drew ahead to win in 38 sec. In their second race, Long improved his time to 57.7 sec., to win clearly.

For the second time in the last week, Long also scored a maximum for his team, Pretoria Tigers, against Germiston Stars, but again Germiston Stars won the League match.

Last night, Pretoria Tigers held a points lead for the first eight races, with Long a winner in his three rides. In the fourth race of the match Doug Lang proved the unlucky yet lucky rider. He was unlucky to crash into the fence and go right over it, but was fortunate to suffer nothing worse than bruises and broken teeth. The South African team chosen for the fourth Speedway Test match at Wembley on Friday night is as follows: F. Wills (captain), H. Long, B. Fuller, D. Serrurier, F. van Zyl, A. Blankfield. Reserves: B. Raw, J. Blankfield, Ninth Man: D. Wolfe.

Overseas team win test and Saturday Feb 23 1952. speedway series

The visiting speedway team which met South Africa in the fourth test at Wembley Stadium last night carried out their promise of making sure of the series by winning 57-51 thus having a 3-1 lead with one test to be decided.

The South Africans received several shocks early in the match, but the sting was taken out of their defeat before the end by some fine riding by little Joe Blankfield and Henry Long.

Fred Wills, the South African captain, was the only man who really showed the overseas men his true mettle before the interval. Even Long, for the first time for several weeks, had to take a minor placing to Trevor Redmond and Reg Duval.

SLIGHT CHANCE

When they were 14 points down, the local riders showed plenty of fight, and at one stage appeared to have a slight chance of making up the leeway. Joe Blankfield went out with Long, shot out of the gate yards ahead of his rivals, and Long made sure that neither Middleditch nor Lewis had a chance of challenging for the lead.

Had Blankfield showed the same form just prior to the test he must have been in the team and could possibly have turned the tables.

Some of the South Africans were disappointing. Buddy Fuller could not keep to the line and scored only one point before having a fall and tearing a ligament. The overseas men, however, reached their best form. Redmond and Duval were the most successful pair, and most of the credit for the team's win must go to them, for it was only in their last race that one of them failed to collect a point.



JOE BLANKFIELD

THE SCORING

Heat Winners: F. Wills (S.A.), 78.3; T. Redmond (G.), 78.4; S. Carlsson (G.), 77.4; H. Long (S.A.), 78.5; H. Andersen (G.), 78.7; K. Middleditch (P.), 77.7; H. Andersen (G.), 77.9; H. Long (S.A.) 78.2; Grierson (G.) 80.2; H. Long (S.A.) 78.3; H. Andersen (G.) 77.9; Blankfield (S.A.) 80.2; Wills (S.A.) 78.8; S. Carlsson (G.) 78.4; H. Long (S.A.) 78.5; H. Lewis (G.) 82.6; H. Long (S.A.) 77.3; F. Wills (S.A.) 78.9.

Points Scorers

Overseas: Redmond 14, Duval 13, Middleditch 13, S. Carlsson 12, R. Redmond 9, G. Mardon 9, T. Lewis 5, J. Grierson 1, South Africa: H. Long 15, F. Wills 12, A. Blankfield 6, B. Raw 4, T. Boshoff 3, D. Serrurier 1, F. van Zyl 1, J. Blankfield 1.

Sunday Tribune Jan 20 1951.



LONG RETAINS TITLE, BUT ANDERSON SETS THREE-LAP RECORD

ALTHOUGH Henry Long retained his Golden Helmet a speedway match-race championship when he beat Henry Andersen by two heats to one at Wembley last night, it was the Norwegian star who set a new three-lap record of 57.5 sec. in his only win.

The Springbok ace won both his races by the length of the back straight in 57.6 sec., to equal the former record time, while Andersen broke the record when he won the second heat "thriller" by a length. Wembley Lions went to the top of the Transvaal League table with an easy 61-38 win over Pretoria Tigers. Long scored 11 points for Tigers and was only beaten by Andersen when his machine cut out while in the lead on the first bend.

Heat Winners: Long (P.) 78.8; Raw (P.) 78.1; Andersen (W.) 77.6; Middleditch (W.) 79.5; Long (P.) 78.5; Andersen (W.) 76.5; Wolfe (W.) 78.4; Grierson (W.) 77.9; Andersen (W.) 76.9; Middleditch (W.) 78.4; Grierson (W.) 78.2; Long (P.) 79.8; Matthews (W.) 80.4; Blankfield (P.)

Last speedway test ends in exciting draw

Saturday March 15, 1952
SOUTH AFRICA and the overseas touring team drew the fifth and final speedway test, 54-54, at Wembley Stadium last night, but the South African riders were unlucky not to have won. They were eight points up with two heats to go, but the superior tactics of the overseas men prevented them from obtaining the three valuable points. The series were 31 to 11 in the overseas team's favour.

The unhappiest man after the meeting must have been Fred Wills. He rode in the final heat against Henry Andersen and Trevor Redmond, and the visitors made him go wide at the first bend and foiled all his attempts to get through.

Joe Blankfield and Roy Bester let Ken Middelditch and Tony Lewis win the first heat, 5-1, but after that they rode exceptionally well until their last heat. Then Blankfield just touched the rear wheel of Linquist's machine and fell. This gave Marion and Linquist the chance to get another 5-1 heat and keep the match alive.

STARTED WELL

Henry Long and Bob Raw started as though they would put South Africa well in front, but towards the end Raw lost some of his dash—but they still finished as the most successful of the South African pair.

When Fred van Zyl withdrew after the second heat, Wills could not find a partner to give him any assistance, and he battled on his own for his 12 points.

Andersen was the best of the touring team, but Middelditch and Lewis scored 19 points between them. It was just as well for the visitors that they had Redmond in reserve, for he was brought in when the team was eight points down, and his final tally was eight.

Andersen leads in Cape Town speedway

Wednesday March 19, 1952
From Our Correspondent

CAPE TOWN, Wednesday. — Fred Wills, who recorded the best times throughout Cape Town's first speedway meeting in the Festival Stadium last night, was surprisingly beaten into third position in the first round for the Van Riebeeck Trophy.

After three brilliant rides Wills, who captained South Africa, won the last heat to force a 36-36 draw with the overseas team in the match which opened the meeting. He then went on to record a one-lap flying start time of 19.2sec.

In the heats for the Van Riebeeck Trophy he set the fastest time of the night of 64.2sec, which was equalled by Andersen in winning the final of the first round. Andersen leads with four points to three by S. Carlsson (Sweden), two by Wills and one by Reg. Duval (England).

The match tonight is between a Dominions side against Europe.

LONG TAKES OPEN TITLE

Saturday March 22, 1952
THE overseas touring team, riding borrowed machines—their bikes are already on the way back to England—had no hope of holding Henry Long at Wembley last night. The Springbok scored maximum 15 points to take the Wembley Open championship.

Apart from Long's performance, and a great battle for second place between Bob Raw (14 points) and Joe Blankfield (11 points), the meeting was conspicuous for the vast number of engine failures to machines ridden by the tourists.

Heat Winners: Long, 75.6; Raw, 78.3; J. Blankfield, 77.4; Bester, 78.7; Raw, 79.4; Long, 75.9; J. Blankfield, 78.1; D. Serrurier, 80.8; J. Blankfield, 77.9; Long, 77.4; Redmond, 82.6; Grierson, 78.5; Lewis, 82.8; Long, 75.7; Raw, 80.9; B. Serrurier, 80.4; Carlsson, 80.8; Long, 76.5; Lewis, 81.0; Raw, 78.9.

Point Scorers: Long, 15; Raw, 14; J. Blankfield, 11; Middelditch, 9; Lewis, 8; Grierson, 8; Carlsson, 7; A. Blankfield, 6; Redmond, 6; Mardon, 5; D. Serrurier, 5; Wills, 5; B. Serrurier, 4; Andersen, 3; Linquist, 2.

Boksburg riders win speedway

Saturday April 19, 1952
League

A brilliant riding spell by Fred Wills, the Boksburg Bees captain, enabled his team to beat Wembley Lions, and win the Transvaal Speedway League at Wembley Stadium last night.

Wills beat the badly out of form Buddy Fuller in the opening heat in 81.6sec. Times were of an exceptionally low standard, but there was able support from Roy Bester and Vern MacWilliam.

Wembley Lions got most of their keen riding from Des Wolfe and George Matthews, who gave a grand exhibition of team riding, in spite of the lack of support from their captain, Buddy Fuller.

The following were the heat winners: Heat 1, F. Wills (B.); time, 81.6sec. Heat 2, D. Wolfe (W.); time, 78.4sec. Heat 3, R. Bester (B.); time, 81.9sec. Heat 4, D. Wolfe (W.); time, 77.9sec. Heat 5, G. Matthews (W.); time, 80.8sec. Heat 6, R. Bester (B.); time, 80.3sec. Heat 7, F. Wills (B.); time, 79.8sec. Heat 8, F. van Zyl (B.); time, 79.7sec. Heat 9, D. Wolfe (W.); time, 78.2sec. Heat 10, D. James (B.); time, 85.7sec. Heat 11, B. Serrurier (W.); time, 79.8sec. Heat 12, F. Wills (B.); time, 79.8sec. Heat 13, F. Wills (B.); time, 79.6sec.

Individual point scorers were: Boksburg: F. Wills, 11; R. Bester, 8; V. MacWilliam, 5; F. van Zyl, 5; D. Collins, 3; D. James, 3; H. Ardendorf, 2; D. Naude, 2. Total, 41.

Wembley Lions: D. Wolfe, 11; G. Matthews, 9; B. Serrurier, 6; B. Fuller, 5; F. Lang, 5; F. Scholtz, 1; J. Paris, 7. Total, 37.

LONG RETAINS "GOLDEN HELMET"

Henry Long retained his speedway "Golden Helmet" at Wembley Stadium last night when he beat Joe Blankfield in two straight rides. Long's times were 57.4 secs. and 57.5 secs. **Friday April 11, 1952**

Johannesburg: B. beat Klerksdorp 49-23 in the team event. "Sonny" James (11 pts.) and B. Medlicot (10 pts.), both of Johannesburg, were the top scorers.

Mills SPORTLIGHT Mills
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THE EVENT OF THE SEASON
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BOKSBURG
THIS CARTOON IS BROUGHT TO YOU THROUGH THE COURTESY OF THE MANUFACTURERS OF MILLS QUALITY CIGARETTES

CHAMPIONSHIP FOR HENRY LONG

ALF LONG, former long-distance motor cycle champion, went along to Prince George Park, Boksburg, last night to see his son, Henry, ride unbeaten to win the Transvaal speedway championship.

At the end of the programme Fred van Zyl and Bob Serrurier tied for second place with 13 points each, but Van Zyl took the runner-up trophy with a narrow victory on the re-run.

Three riders, each with 11 points, tied for third place—Doug Serrurier, Dave Collins and Des Wolf.

HENRY LONG, Bidding for First South African Speedway Title, Says:

Anything Can Happen With Good-class Speedway Field

Friday May 9, 1952
I WILL not be drawn into forecasting the result of the South African speedway championships at Wembley Stadium to-night. I've been in these championships before and I'm still trying for my first National title.

Anything can happen, especially with such a good-class field at the "gate." But I promise you that I'm going all out to win the crown. It's three years since I last took part in the South African event, I remember that 1949 championship meeting so well for I was beaten by Fred Wills into second place.

Maybe my motor was not going quite as well as it should have done due to a terrific struggle with Buddy Fuller in the previous heat. But I have no complaints. Wills deserved the title.

The championship is just another meeting with heats to be won. The opposition never worries me and my full concentration is on winning the heat from the moment I leave the pits.

I've been through it all hundreds of times. There's the steady ride from the starting gate, listening to the note of the engine and determining that all is well. Then those tense moments at the



HENRY LONG

Then those tense moments at the

gate where I always watch the right-hand side of the tapes. Why? Because my right wrist, which controls the throttle, is not flexible—the result of a road accident. Consequently I find it easier to turn towards the right.

I'm happy to report that my machine has some well ever since the first Test against the Overseas team. It's a machine I bought in England for £210 and I've spent £150 keeping it "on top" during this season.

Yes, I shall be out there to-night trying for that elusive title, but if somebody better wins that will do for me. I'm not under-rating the present champion, Bob Serrurier or Roy Bester who I think is one of the most improved riders of the season or any of the others in the championship.

The full field for the championships (start 8 p.m.) is: Boshoff, Bob, Harry, Doug and Jack Serrurier, Alec and Joe Blankfield, Henry Long, Fred Lang, Van Zyl, Raw, Matthews, Collins and Gould. Reserves: McWilliam and Wolfe.

Henry Long (15 pts.) Gains First South African

Saturday May 10, 1952
Speedway Title

By ERIC LITCHFIELD

HENRY LONG has done it at last! Scoring maximum (15) points from his five rides, the Alberton star became the South African speedway champion at Wembley Stadium last night. "It's taken me a long time to get this elusive championship," said Henry.

Perhaps Heat 12, where Long met Bester was the decider. Bester had maximum points from two rides, but Long, bursting from the gate, never looked like being headed—and the same applied to each of Long's five heats. Twice the new champion clocked 79.9 secs., which is only two-fifths second outside his own track record.

Throughout it was the consistently brilliant Long, whom South African speedway crowds have seen for the last six years. But this time he had no bad luck to mar his championship bid.

"I owe much to my dad for my first national title," said Long, paying tribute to Alf Long, well-known for his road racing.

Bright performance of the championship came from 23-year-old Roy Bester, Boksburg North motor mechanic, who gained runner-up prize after only two full seasons in speedway. He dropped only one point—in the heat with Long—and fully lived up to the opinion of both Long and Buddy Fuller that he is a future South African champion. His riding style is similar to that of Long.

Bob Raw came right back to his best form, dropping only two points to take third place, losing to Long and Bester.

It was an unlucky night for Fred Wills, three times national champion. His engine seized in his very first heat, but despite the disadvantage of riding several borrowed machines, he still managed to collect nine points.

Heat Winners: Bester (78.7), D. Serrurier (78.8), Long (79.8), J. Blankfield (79.3), Bester (77.3), J. Blankfield (78.3), Raw (79.4), Raw (78.4), Long (78.2), D. Serrurier (80.4), Blankfield (77.9), Long (73.9), Bester (73.1), Long (77.3), A. Blankfield (66.7), Raw (78.9).

Points Scorers: Long 15, Bester 14, Raw 13, J. Blankfield 11, D. Serrurier 11, Wills 9, A. Blankfield 8, Collins 7, Gould 6, B. Serrurier 5, Boshoff 4, J. Serrurier 4, Van Zyl 4, H. Serrurier 3, Matthews 3, F. Lang 3.

Fred Wills Wins First Natal Speedway Title From Doug Serrurier

Sunday Tribune July 27, 1952.

THE first Natal speedway championship meeting provided a spectacular finish to Hoy Park's inaugural season last night, when Fred Wills had to battle his way through a re-run against Doug Serrurier before winning the title.

It was without doubt the most thrilling night of speedway since the opening of the track last December, and the greatest race seen on the circuit occurred in the last heat of the 20-heat championship.

It was Wills (then 12 points) against Roy Bester (11) and Doug Serrurier (11) and Serrurier forced a tie at 14 points and a re-run by relegating Wills into second place after four terrific laps in which the lead changed hands several times. There was no more than a length in it at the end.

In the re-run Serrurier led for the first two laps. Then Wills slipped inside at the first bend on the third lap and held his place to win by three or four lengths in 59.6sec, thus adding the title to his recently-won Natal match race championship.

MANY SPILLS

Several of the many spills which took place during the night might well have had serious consequences. Bob Serrurier was extremely lucky to keep out of hospital, for on two occasions he was removed from the track on a stretcher but each time he was back for more.

His first crash saw him hitting the cinders amid a shower of sparks; the second sent him catapulting yards through the air when his machine hit the safety fence.

Top placings in the Natal championship were: 1, Fred Wills (14 pts.); 2, Doug Serrurier (14 pts.); 3, Roy Bester (12); 4, Harry Serrurier (11); 5, Bob Raw, Bill Dalton, Vern Williams (8).

Fastest time of the night was Bob Serrurier's 59sec. in heat 2. Trophies and prizes were presented by Dudley Nourse, who confessed that this was his first visit to the speedway, but thought that every rider taking part deserved a trophy!

An extra meeting, in aid of Red Cross funds, will be held at Hoy Park on August 9. The meeting will consist of handicap events only.



S.Africa v. Overseas, Overseas team: rear, A.Lindqvist, H.Andersen, R.Duval, T.Lewis, J.Grierson; Knlg, G.Mardon, T.Redmond, K.Middleditch (Captn.)



Skippers **Fred Wills (SA)** & **Ken Middleditch (Ov.)** 3rd Test programme Series top scorer **Henry Long**



Roy Bester – SA Junior Champion 1952



Henry Long in action at Wembley, Johannesburg



New Zealanders **Geoff Mardon**



& **Trevor Redmond**



Ever the showman, **Trevor Redmond** teaching **Henry Andersen** the bagpipes.